

### REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application.

#### Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the telephone interview regarding this application on July 27, 2010. During that interview the references mentioned in the Final Action were discussed along with possible amendments to the claims as presented above. Although final agreement was not reached, the Examiner indicated that claims directed to an arrangement in which the braces have overlapping portions at the upright would advance the prosecution of this application. Applicant believes that the claim amendments presented above are consistent with the scope discussed with the Examiner and respectfully requests that the amendment be entered.

#### The rejection of claims 7 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §112 can be withdrawn.

The amendments to claim 7 above include correcting the antecedent basis issue raised by the Examiner in the Final Action. Applicant respectfully submits that the claim satisfies the statutory requirements and that the rejection can be withdrawn.

#### The rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 can be withdrawn.

As discussed during the interview, none of the cited references alone has an arrangement that includes overlapping brace portions as recited in the amended claims. At best *Tominaga, et al.* reference has braces that do not overlap. Additionally, there is no slot with a longitudinal dimension as recited in Applicant's claims in that reference.

**The rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 can be withdrawn.**

It is not possible to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness against any of the pending claims. None of the references alone, or in combination has overlapping brace portions as claimed. Therefore, even if the cited references could be combined, the result is not sufficient to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

**Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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